

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/559,595

A2
cont
58. A cable according to claim 5⁴, in which said smectite is selected from the group consisting of montmorillonite, bentonite, beidellite, nontronite, saponite, hectorite, and mixtures thereof.

59. A cable according to claim 6⁵, in which said smectite is selected from the group consisting of montmorillonite and bentonite.

A3
9. A cable according to claim 1, in which said organic compound is a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyesters, polyethers, polyvinyl ethers, polyurethanes, polyurethane acrylates, maleates, fumarates, polythiols, polyenes, and copolymers and mixtures thereof.

10. A cable according to claim 1, in which said organic compound is a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polybutylene-terephthalates, vinyl polymers, elastomers, silicones, and copolymers and mixtures thereof.

11. A cable according to claim 1, in which said organic compound is a polymer selected from the group consisting of epoxy resins, polyesters, polyamides, polyimides, polyetherimides, polyamidimides, polyurethanes, silicones, and mixtures thereof.

12. A cable according to any one of claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11, comprising an optical fiber surrounded by a protective coating including at least one layer constituted essentially by said covering material.

13. A cable according to any one of claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11, including a plurality of optical fibers and an outer sheath including at least one layer constituted essentially by said covering material.